

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-06 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-05 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 INRE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /073 W

----- 007560

O 022131Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3160

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3081

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF

OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REFS: STATE 103084; SANTIAGO 3042, 2971

1. SHORTLY BEFORE ARRIVAL STATE 103084, MAY 2, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF RESETTLING VIETNAMESE IN CHILE WITH FONMIN CARVAJAL.

2. CARVAJAL SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET, WHO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT CHILE MIGHT RECEIVE ABOUT 100 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, ON UNDERSTANDING THEY WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON CHILEAN ECONOMY AT THIS MOMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND AUSTERITY. CARVAJAL THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR REFUGEES TO BE SELECTED, AND RESETTLED, IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY COULD QUICKLY BEGIN PRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES OF BENEFIT TO CHILE'S ECONOMY. FOR EXAMPLE, VIETNAMESE MIGHT ESTABLISH A SMALL SETTLEMENT AT A POINT IN THE NORTH WHERE THEY COULD RAISE RICE, OR WHERE THEY COULD WORK AS FISHERMEN. IN VIEW OF CURRENT CONDITIONS IN CHILE, CARVAJAL HOPED

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REFUGEES COULD BE PROVIDED WITH

PREFABRICATED HOUSING, AND WITH SOME FACILITY IN SPANISH.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID WE DID NOT YET KNOW WHAT KINDS OF PERSONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR RESETTLEMENT AND WHAT SKILLS THEY WOULD HAVE. HE SUGGESTED UNHCR AND ICEM MIGHT BE HELPFUL AND THAT MEMBERS OF GOC DELEGATION TO OASGA, WHO WILL BE IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK, MIGHT BE IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR DEAN BROWN'S OFFICE TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES. CARVAJAL AGREED.

4. AS INDICATED ABOVE, CHILEANS ARE LIKELY TO ACCEPT 100 REFUGEES, PERHAPS MORE, PROVIDED THEY RECEIVE ASSURANCES OF ASSISTANCE FROM USG OR REFUGEE ORGANIZATIONS IN PRODUCTIVE RESETTLEMENT. WE SUGGEST THAT EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR HERE, CHILEANS BE GIVEN A MORE DEFINITE INDICATION OF TYPES OF REFUGEES AVAILABLE, AND MATTER THEN BE PURSUED THROUGH ICEM/UNHCR. BOTH OF LATTER MAINTAIN OFFICES IN SANTIAGO. POPPER

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